

RURAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH FORESTRY GRANT APPLICATION

Project Description and Implementation Plan

AMD&ART Park Litmus Garden Replanting

A little more than a year ago, 150 volunteers turned out over a weekend to plant nearly 1000 trees and shrubs in the Litmus Garden, a primary interpretive area of the AMD&ART Park immediately adjacent to the Ghost Town Trail. We planted, we were hit by a long drought, we had the volunteer firemen watering all they could and we've lost a great many trees in spite of our efforts. Now we have re-evaluated our process and are ready to try again.

Our plan is to concentrate first on the Ghost Town Trail side of the Litmus Garden, that part seen most readily by the 70,000 users of the trail. We will plant only trees for the moment – if we are able to complete the trail side of the Litmus Garden, we start on the other side as well. We will remove dead trees (about half the total), provide a lot more planting media than we were able to do with volunteer shovels, have a professional nursery plant the trees correctly and then use our volunteers to assure that watering (this time with our own pump and the treatment system ponds as a nearby source) happens early and often through the fall and again in the spring. Based on multiple professional opinions, this approach should assure a solid stand of the native trees critical to the Litmus Garden and its interpretive success.

Statement of Need

The Litmus Garden is a primary visual and interpretive feature of the AMD&ART Park. It is our best place to feature native trees and point out their benefits, it creates a visible sign of recovery, both in the AMD water and for the community, and it creates a reason for a fall community celebration when the colors of the Litmus Garden reflect the improving health of the water and, by implication, the surrounding community that made this project possible.

AMD&ART has simply exhausted its financial resources in completing this huge project. We still have strong support from community volunteers, we have our AmeriCorps team funded for 2003, we have secured the trees and planting services from the same nursery that has supported us throughout this project and we have a firm promise of assistance from the US Army Corps of Engineers in again supplying the planting media. We need cash to pay the hard costs that cannot be donated.

Partners

AMD&ART has a long history of partnership development; indeed we won the Governor's Award for Watershed Partnering last year. Replanting the Litmus

Garden will reassemble the same long list of partners, including the USACE; our community volunteer backhoe and operator, Hanchar's Nursery, many, many resident volunteers and our dedicated AmeriCorps Members.

Costs

Trees and professional planting (100 trees @ \$50 each)	\$5400
Planting media (materials and transportation)	\$4000
Backhoe (6 days at @300 per day)	\$1800
Pump for watering	\$ 200
Volunteer time to assist professional planting and for watering (20 hours per week, 20 weeks @ \$8 per hour)	\$4000
Total	\$15,400

In-Kind Services

Planting media is being developed and donated by USACE, but we will have to pay transportation costs.	\$3000
Backhoe will donate half their usual rate.	\$ 900
Volunteers will log hours assisting the planting and doing the watering through the fall and during the following spring/summer.	\$4000
Total in-kind estimated	\$7900
Amount this request	\$7500

Results/Benefits

Over 70,000 trail users annually will pass by a native tree display, complete with signage identifying each species and their characteristics. The primary interpretive point on this 35 acres site will be a healthy stand of native trees, changing to fall colors that reflect the increasing health of the water. Finally, with the Litmus Garden in a healthy state, the community of Vintondale will begin planning a fall 2003 revitalization celebration (with AMD&ART AmeriCorps assistance) that will create an annual event that reflects in this community and its remarkable transformation from environmental liability to community asset.

Applicant Information:

Applicant Name AMD + ART
Contact Person Jeanne Gleason
Address 411 Third Ave.
Johnstown, PA 15906
County/municipality Cambria / Vintondale (site)
Phone number (814) 539-5357 Fax number (814) 539-4345
E-mail amdandart@amdandart.org

All applicants must provide a **detailed project description** that includes the following information. Please be as clear and concise as possible.

- ◆ Project description and implementation plan
- ◆ Statement of need
- ◆ Any partners involved in your project
- ◆ Detailed costs of the project
- ◆ In-kind match (cash, in-kind services described on page 4)
- ◆ Results/benefits of the completed project

Please Fill In The Appropriate Grant Form(s) For Which You Are Applying

<p>ECONOMIC ACTION: Rural Development Through Forestry Grant Application</p> <p>Applicant Name _____</p> <p>Project Title _____</p> <p>Purpose of Project (brief statement) _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Amount of Grant Request _____</p> <p>Please check one or more of the categories below that apply to your project:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> trail enhancements <input type="checkbox"/> community park <input type="checkbox"/> pavilion <input type="checkbox"/> picnic tables</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> playground equipment <input type="checkbox"/> other</p>
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URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANT APPLICATION

Applicant Name AMD & ART

Project Title Litmus Garden Tree Planting

Purpose of Project (brief statement) Replace trees lost to drought to rain forest native tree - Litmus Garden interpretation.

Amount of Grant Request 15,400 / 7,500

Please check one or more of the categories below that apply to your project:

- tree planting ___ tree maintenance ___ tree inventory
 environmental education ___ other

COOPERATIVE FIRE MANAGEMENT GRANT APPLICATION

Applicant Name _____

Project Title _____

Purpose of Project (brief statement) _____

Amount of Grant Request _____

Please check one or more of the categories below that apply to your project:

- ___ dry hydrants ___ forest and brush fire equipment ___ protective clothing
___ other

AMD&ART

CREATING COMMUNITY ASSETS

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November 5, 2003

Thomas F. Grote
Conemaugh Valley Conservancy
Kiski Basin Initiatives
501 15th Street, Suite B
Windber, Pennsylvania 15963

RE: Provisional Acceptance Revisions

Director Grote:

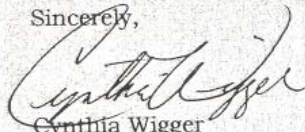
Greetings! Per our conversation on October 15, 2003 I am submitting the provisional acceptance revisions for the United States Forestry Service **Urban and Community Forestry** grant.

AMD&ART has addressed all of the concerns raised by the grant committee reviewing the United States Forestry Service **Urban and Community Forestry** proposals. As AMD&ART did not receive a formal document stating the required changes necessary to achieve full acceptance, please note that all changes made to the original grant proposal were based on my telephone conversation with you and the notes I made during that call.

As stated in the revision Dr. Charles Lee with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be submitting a letter regarding the success of the planting plans. Dr. Lee has been on vacation and has not yet submitted the letter...once the letter is received AMD&ART will forward it to you and the grant committee.

AMD&ART wishes to thank you and the United States Forestry Service **Urban and Community** grant committee for awarding us this grant. Because of supporters like you we can make things happen.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Wigger
Watershed Development Coordinator
AMD&ART, Inc.

Note on the Urban and Community Forestry grant application

To: Tom Grote: Conemaugh Valley Conservancy

From: AMD&ART

Date: October 27, 2003

Thank you for your comments transmitting the concerns of the review committee regarding our application. Given this grant was written many months ago, we know a great deal more about some of the things we need to do to assure success and we have more partners to facilitate that success as well.

Regarding the budget, we have made all the changes you suggested, including only \$1000 for planting media, reducing the grant costs of the backhoe to \$900, changing the estimate of the value of volunteer time to the \$16,00 per hour you suggested and eliminating the phrase "during the following spring/summer," so there is no future maintenance included in the grant. I should hasten to add however, that future maintenance is certainly a part of what AMD&ART is committed to do.

The AMD&ART VISTA that assists with budget concerns is at trining this week, but we will supply a revised budget as soon as she returns, no later than November 7, 2003.

Regarding planting plans:

We will be planting native trees in continuous trenches, which will provide a great deal more room for healthy root growth. These will be filled with artificial soil developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which we have used with good success in the past. These results have been reported on the USACE web site in a research report by Dr. Charles Lee, with whom we continue to work. A letter from Dr. Lee is attached.

We will first fill in any trees on the trail side of the Litmus Garden. We completed a small replanting project with other funds on some stands of native trees in this area, but there are a few more bands that need to be reinforced to provide the arboretum we want. We have also

started a consistent maintenance and deer-fence effort to assure that we can see each new tree and keep it as safe as possible from winter deer feeding.

On the other side of the Litmus Garden we intend to do two things. First, we will carefully examine those tree types that have survived in this area and reinforce these bands. Second, we will shift all the bands down the slope and further out onto the flat area where there is soil and water much closer to the surface. We are confident these two steps will assure very good success with the planting. The professional nursery we are working with agrees and will guarantee the trees to survive, as seen in their letter, also attached.

Watering:

Over the past year, AMD&ART has established good contact with several volunteer groups that have become dependable, committed workers at our site. Further, we have a dedicated AmeriCorps Member that will do the watering himself, should volunteers be unable to meet all the demands of constant attention in the first year. Finally, we have significantly more experience with portable pumps and appropriate pumping sources for water for these new trees, again helping to assure our success. We will draw water from our wetlands or from those ponds with a ph high enough to provide good water for each tree planted.

Additional Information:

Beyond these immediate answers, it is important for the committee to recognize that AMD&ART continues in its steadfast commitment to this site. We secured a \$50,000 OSM grant to provide corrections and enhancements to the treatment system and turned off the discharge to the entire system almost a month ago to allow it to dry out enough to work. We will begin pumping some ponds dry this next week and actual work on the project will begin before the end of this month, October. We will coordinate our tree planting to assure that all the new trees – as well as those already there – are safe from harm.

Please do not hesitate to let us know if there are any further questions.

AMD&ART

11-03-2003

Costs

Trees and professional planting (100 trees @ \$50 each)	\$5000
Planting media (materials and transportation)	\$1000
Backhoe (3 days @ 300 per day)	\$ 900
Pump for watering	\$ 200
Volunteer time to assist professional planting and for watering (20 hours per week, 20 weeks @ \$16 per hour)	\$6400
Total	\$13,500

In-Kind Services

Planting media is being developed and donated by USACE, but we will have to pay transportation costs.	\$3000
Backhoe will donate half their usual rate.	\$ 900
Volunteers will log hours assisting the planting and doing the watering through the fall (20 hours per week, 20 weeks @ \$16 per hour).	\$6400
Total In-Kind estimated	\$10,300
Amount this request	\$5750